outta control

BELFAST ANARCHIST MONTHLY

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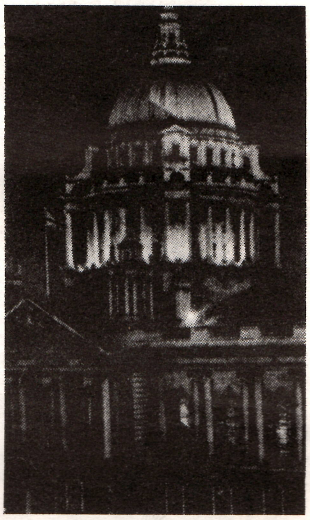
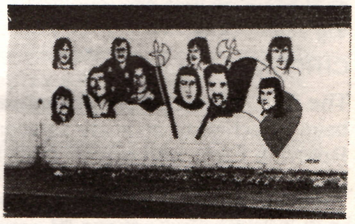


GET
THE
BRITS
OUT!



Images from a series of postcards; see p.3.

GREETINGS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND

Wish yous weren't here!

BEATING ROUND THE BUSH!

It is no secret anymore that the southern state and Britain would come to an agreement on a united Ireland, if the south were prepared to incorporate itself into NATO.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is the 'West's' military alliance against the Warsaw Pact, and increasingly lately against the 'West's' internal opposition, which ranges form social revolutionary movements to national liberation struggles.

Recent developments show that the coalition government is very keen on negotiations about such a settlement.

The Minister of Defence, Paddy Cooney said two weeks ago in the Dail that Irish neutrality is a matter of expediency rather than principle. Future expediency might demand a different position.

In fact one week ago the Sunday Press published a letter from the Minister of Defence to the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs in a previous coalition government.

It concerned the revamping of the south's aged telecommunications system by a US multinational firm. The letter suggested that the Defence Department in the USA 'be contacted with a view to enquiring if the proposed system is compatible with their standards'. When else would such a compatability be necessary, than in the event of the south joining NATO.

USA vice-President Bush is to visit the south at the begining of July, where he will have talks with Fitzgerald. He will later meet Thatcher as part of his European tour. In a radio interview at the end of June, he said that if Britain and the south were to agree, the USA would like to play more of a meaningful role in attempting to 'solve the northern problem'.

Fitzgerald himself has pushed for more meetings with Thatcher. They have had two meetings this year at European 'heads of state' venues - in Brussels in March, and Stuttgart in June. As a consequence an Anglo-Irish summit is planned for the end of this year. It is well over a year since such a summit, which were to be held twice yearly, until a row broke out because of the Fianna Fail government's 'neutrality' over the Falklands/Malvinas war.

After the Stuttgart meeting Fitzgerald said,'We discussed future meetings at *different levels* between the two governments. It was very cordial'. What these 'different levels' are, he did not explain, but as he implied, they are a continual process, and as Cooney implied, they involve the 'expediencey of neutrality'.

CIVIL ORDER - PLASTIC DEATH .....

Ten people, mostly very young, were killed by plastic bullets during the hunger-strike campaign. None of them has been proven, at subsequent inquests to have taken part in rioting.

It is obvious that even if this were the case, the ability of the 'security forces' to kill, should be resisted. Given the findings of the inquests, pressure is mounting to ban the plastic bullet.

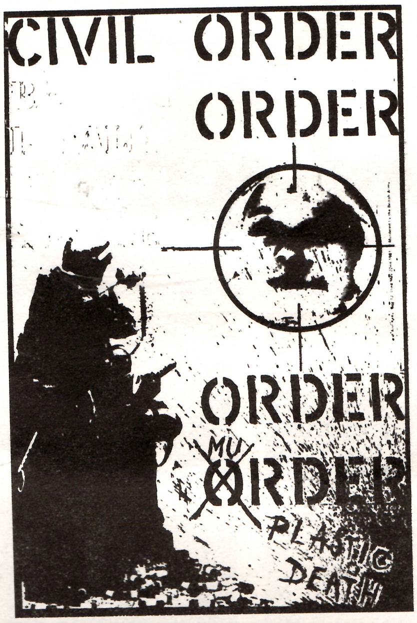
The most recent inquest was into the death of 11year old Stephen McConomy from Derry. It provided evidence that there was murder, and that there is a cover-up.

JURY'S CONLUSIONS

At Belfast's Coroners Court, the jury found that the plastic bullet was fired at a range of 17 feet. They also concluded that the Brits were not in serious danger at the time, again in contravention of recommendations; and that Stephen was not involved in rioting at the time.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The RUC claimed that a tricolour had been attached to an army saracen, near Rossville Flats, and one of their landrovers 'went to its aid'.



One of the postcards from Just Books Prisoners Book Scheme series

COVER UP

Because of the overwhelming evidence that Stephen was not involved in rioting the 'security forces' claimed a mistake was made. The Brit said he had aimed for the 'ring-leader', but missed.

To back this up a police forensic scientist told the inquest that tests had shown the gun to be faulty. It apparently was inaccurate by 11 to 15 degrees, and in 8 tests out of 10, the trigger had to be pulled twice.

NOT ACCURATE ENOUGH!

Despite pleas from London-SDLP for the banning of the bullet, and from the NCCL for prosecution by the DPP it is obvioius the 'faulty gun' argument will militate against either demand.

In fact Coroner Elliot has asked the Crown Solicitor to ensure that in future all guns are made accurate!

No petrol bombs were thrown, only stones. They claimed though that a small fire had been started under the Saracen. The Lance Corporal said he thought the fire was being rekindled when he opened a hatch and fired his gun.

TOMELTY CHARGED ...again

Sean Tomelty, who was part paralyzed by a plastic bullet in 1981, has been a arrested and charged . . . again. O.C. has previously given details of his victimisation, over thise past two years, by the RUC and Brits.

He was shot at point blank range, after being dragged up an entry by the Brits in Divis flats. He was on a life-support system for several weeks, and had a major operation to insert a plate in his scull. The injury resulted in him being paralysed down the left side of his body He walks with great difficulty and has no movement in his left arm.

The RUC first charged him with riotous behaviour. It was an obvious attempt to deprive him of the substantial compensation he was entitled to. At the trial he was acquitted.

Their second charge rested on the word of then-informer Goodman. But this fell through when Goodman retracted his statements. The daily harassment an and regular arrests continued.

Then on the 25th June, he was rearrested and charged with INLA membership and possession of a bomb, on the word of the latest informer, Harry Kirkpatrick.

Sean's mother explained the manner of his arrest,

"Sean was over in his sister's house, on the Saturday night, celebrating both their birthdays, the 20th and 22nd of June. They were having a wee drink. They didn't hear the RUC come in through the kitchen, and up into the bedrooms. They were half-way down the stairs, when they heard them. There were about ten RUC inside the house, and I don't know how many outside.

The women were screaming at them through the windows, and a couple of neighbours came out. They told me the RUC gave him a really hard time of it. One old woman was crying as she was telling me this."

Picking Up the Pieces

PICKING UP THE PIECES –
A WOMEN'S RESOURCE PACK. £2

Women's daily lives are difficult to document because they tend to be so fragmented. The priorities which demand our attention are not of our own choosing – trying to make ends meet financial, caring for children in high rise flats, maintaining a national identity and dignity in hostile surroundings, struggling to improve health and living standards amid environmental squalour and pollution.

All this and more is documented in 'Picking up the Pieces' but what makes it more than a litany of women's woes is that on each issue it also records how women in N. Ireland have organised together to tackle these problems.

The resource pack, produced by Belfast Women in Media group, is a folder containing 26 colourful and well illustrated loose cards. It can be read as a whole or dipped into for reference on topics including health, education, childcare, work and history. Each issue is treated as both a theoretical and practical level, with information about campaigns, contact addresses etc.

If there are ommissions they are not glaring ones. The aim of the women who compiled the information was to document the problems, struggles and achievements of women here over the past decade and in doing this they have provided a resource both for women already involved in the women's movement and more importantly for those who may not yet have seen how all womens struggles are connected.

'N PIECES□BRITS 'N PIECES

CHEMICAL WARFRY

Silage effluent has severely polluted rivers in north Antrim. One example is the Stracam River which was recently restocked with 4,000 salmon fry (young fish). All the salmon, plus 1000s of trout fry, and almost the entire insect life were completely destroyed within a matter of hours.

It is thought that some farmers are dumping the effluent from silage directly into the rivers. The poisonous compound is sulphuric acid which kills river life. However it can safely be piped or sprayed back into the grass land.

SHOOT-TO-TRY-TO-KILL

The shoot-to-kill policy applies not only to political activists, but also to young people who 'joy-ride'. While there have been no recent fatalities, it is not for the want of trying. Two young girls and a boy were recently arrested by the RUC in York Street after a stolen car had crashed. A fourth ran off, whereupon the RUC opened fire. Fortunately they missed, but he was later caught in Smithfield.

OUTTA CONTROL

This issue of Outta Control is for July and August. We will resume monthly publication in September. If you wish to send articles, news, or criticism write to

OUTTA CONTROL
7 Winetavern St.,
Smithfield
Belfast 1.

Subscription is £4 for 12 issues. Trade copies in Wales, Scotland, and England can be got from

Full Time Distribution ,
Albion Yard
Balfe St.
London N1

PONTIFFICATING

Those who believe that the Pope can do anything but harm in the repressive Polish state, are either liberals or enemies of the working classes (what's the difference? Ed.). There can be no accomodation with capitalism or the state if we are to liberate ourselves But J.P. wants 'the whole Polish nation to live in mutual trust.' He wants people to trust their jailers!

FIGURE THIS ONE OUT

Martin Donnelly is described as the 'Boss' of Belfasts Crescent Arts Centre in a recent feature article in the Sunday Press. His authorativeness melts somewhat when he 'reckons that about 1,700 people of all ages and from all parts of Belfast drop into the centre daily'. Since the gymnasium has a capacity for 200 seats, there are only two conclusions possible. The first is that the Crescent runs at least 8 shows PER DAY; or secondly, given that there's rarely more than two public events per week, and that about 50 people use it on the unemployed day (Wednesday), then about 600 people must enjoy the events hanging from the ceiling!

One other little miscalculation; it is also claimed that there are classes on video, woodwork, etc. These are in fact run by Belfast Unemployed Action, and not the Crescent as is implied.

POSTCARD SERIES

The illustration on the front page is one of a series of 8 postcards, produced by Just Books. Proceeds from their sale will go towards their Prisoners Book Scheme. Books are sold at half price to any prisoner who orders from their stock. They cost 15p each (10p for shops) from Just Books, 7 Winetavern St., Smithfield, Belfast 1. Money with orders please.

GUTS AND GORE

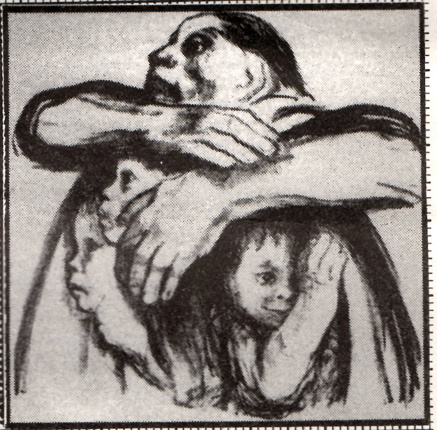
"Do you have the guts?" ... runs the latest UDR recruitment advert. "There is no better way of describing the special calibre of people we want . ." it admits. And if you have "the guts", (ie. you brains in you feet), then you'll be rewarded . . . the satisfaction of contributing to your country, good rates of pay, and . . . bounties! How much of a bounty did the killers of Tony Harker get?

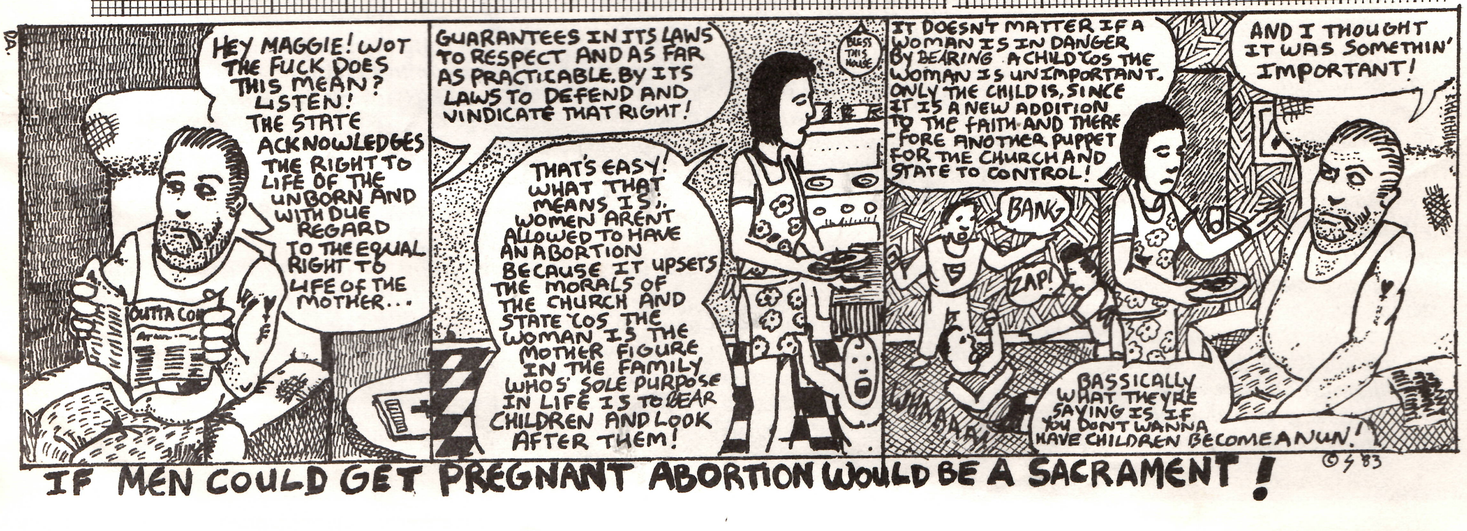
KATHE KOLLWITZ EXHIBITION

"Her politics emerged from her social life, her gut, her heart, her historical awareness, and merged with the forms of the human bodies that were the vehicles for her beliefs. She dealt with tragedy, not pathos, though tragedy was not usually associated with the lives of working-class people."

From the foreward by Lucy Lippard to a collection of her work.

An exhibition of her drawings, sculpture and posters is presently on show at the Ulster Museum on Stranmillis Rd. It continues until August 30th.




D.A.
HEY MAGGIE! WOT THE FUCK DOES THIS MEAN? LISTEN! THE STATE ACKNOWLEDGES THE RIGHT TO LIFE OF THE UNBORN AND WITH DUE REGARD TO THE EQUAL RIGHT TO LIFE OF THE MOTHER...
OUTTA CON
GUARANTEES IN ITS LAWS TO RESPECT AND AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE. BY ITS LAWS TO DEFEND AND VINDICATE THAT RIGHT!
BLESS THIS HOUSE
THAT'S EASY! WHAT THAT MEANS IS, WOMEN ARENT ALLOWED TO HAVE AN ABORTION BECAUSE IT UPSETS THE MORALS OF THE CHURCH AND STATE COS THE WOMAN IS THE MOTHER FIGURE IN THE FAMILY WHOS' SOLE PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO BEAR CHILDREN AND LOOK AFTER THEM!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF A WOMAN IS IN DANGER BY BEARING A CHILD COS THE WOMAN IS UNIMPORTANT. ONLY THE CHILD IS, SINCE IT IS A NEW ADDITION TO THE FAITH AND THERE-FORE ANOTHER PUPPET FOR THE CHURCH AND STATE TO CONTROL!
AND I THOUGHT IT WAS SOMETHIN' IMPORTANT!
BANG
ZAP!
WHAAAAA!
BASSICALLY WHAT THEYRE SAYING IS IF YOU DONT WANNA HAVE CHILDREN BECOME A NUN!
© S 83

IF MEN COULD GET PREGNANT ABORTION WOULD BE A SACRAMENT!

INSIDE RUMPOLES AGAIN

Rich barristers in Belfast were seen to be grinning a lot recently, even more happy with their lot in life. It would seem that they've pulled off some sort of coup, tightening their grip on their lucrative trade.

Their professional organisation - the Inn of Court - had a meeting in June this year, the first time they've met since the 'Inn of Court' was set up in 1926! Another meeting is planned for November. Why such feverish activity from a bunch more noted for amassing fortunes than discussing tactics?

Up to now barristers were under the control of the 'Benchers', mainly composed of judges. But the meetings in June and Nov. are aimed at a transfer of powers from the Benchers to the Inn of Court. It will now be the barristers themselves who will regulate entry into the profession.

The leading light behind the power transfer is Q.C. McSparron, THE Catholic solicitor, part owner of the Irish News, property lord, and about £50,000 the richer when the Black-informer trial ends. He wants to control the 'standards'of the profession, and stem the flow of young barristers trying to get into the trade; in particular, to block those whose political sympathies and general oulook are less conservative than his own. To gain support, he is floating the myth that barristers should tighten up, pull up the ladder of entry and stay rich. To keep it as exclusive as possible.

At the moment, Queens Law Faculty graduate about 80 or 90 students a year. The profession is swamped, already there are unemployed solicitors. Too many in terms of money-making legal need. Few are interested in working in the legal areas of housing, or social security. Thats not where the money comes from. So McSparrons mob want to control entry and 'standards' to ensure a continuation of making huge sums of money. Too many barristers, particularly of the wrong sort, might rock the boat. For the record, top judges (like Lowry), earn about £60,000 a year; Q.C.'s like McSparron, McCartney and Boal get up to £250,000 a year; solicitors from £4,000 to £100,000. All at our expense.

FOOTNOTE

Not so long ago, Lord Hailsham came over form London to try and work out why there were so few applicants for judges. He found it was mainly because of the huge DROP in salary most of them would get, coupled with an increased security risk. Hailsham failed to persuade any Q.C.'s to become judges. So he created 8 new Q.C.'s, flooded the courts a bit and forced salaries to drop a little. Within 2 months, there were 2 new county court judges - Donaldson and Gibson.

GOOD GRIEF!

SILAS ARBUTHNOT, who appears to have cornered the market in internationally unknown opinion makers, makes a few more. . . .

YOU FUCKING PROVIE BASTARDS! These words echoed around the prolonged summer twilight in the Market area of the city. People peeped out of their windows expecting the habitual harassment of the youth by the Brits. They were young and they were Brits! They were posing beside a mural of Bobby Sands and taking turns at photographing themselves. The clothmouthed south of England voice of their superior officer was not FUCKING amused!

Incidentally the mural also showed Connolly in battle dress and carried the slogans;
Vote Socialist
Vote Republican
Vote Sinn Fein.
Some local cynic was heard to say, 'and cross your fingers'.
How irreligious!

My converted Philistine' in the area also tells me that at 4 pm. pm the eve of the recent Brit general election, the last schoolboys emerged from the local school, St. Colmans. At 16.05 hours precisely the Brits arrived and occupied the school. It was to be converted into a polling station for use of the next day. It did indeed prove amenable premises for improvised elocution, drama and literacy workshops. What was an honorable tradition had now become sneaky. Did the Sticks, the SDLP, etc. really think that for the last sixty odd years the shinners had been impersonating as electoral therapy should ever the moment, like the phoenix, arise.
Anyway to get back to the displaced students, they had nothing better to do all day except stone the Brits, who retaliated. This cheered the students up They had a good days lesson. The Brits retreated inside their saracens. Padraic Pearse would have loved it.

Onto real politics. Rumours from the Shankill that, full of a few bottles of remorse, a city councillor complained bitterly, in the Cowboy Belt Bar, that nobody paid any attention to him. Didn't everyone know that he was the most important councillor in the area, since he was the first councillor in the area to be shot by the INLA. An out of court settlement with the NIO has awarded him a SIX FIGURE number, for his pains. Maybe he should inform his constituents and his popularity would surely rise. He could afford to run in the European elections.

Talking about the poverty lobby, a recent reviewer in this journal almost suggested that John M. Feehan, who wrote the book on Bobby Sands, was motivated by something other than a political conversion. The publishers are Mercier Press. John M. Feehan is a Director of Mercier Press. I think that Sands work is the most original and revealing writing to come out of the republican movement in the last decade. But why has The Bobby Sands Trust signed him and his work away to charlatans. It is not the money, I'm sure, knowing the costs of printing and publishing. Lets have a bit of principled leadership and not naivete.

THEY CAME FOR THE JEWS...

These may be the early stages in the use of touts but the situation is still being developed and publicly tested.

The state apparently feels it has all the time in the world to formulate its repressive apparatus, it grinds on and on in its development.

It may have taken years to perfect the use of the Payment of Debt Act but now it only takes a couple of weeks for you to fall behind in your rent or electric bills etc., before it swings into action.

The information from touts is not restricted to recent 'crimes' but can stretch back to the beginning of the 'troubles'; Think of the thousands of people in that period who have been involved in anti-state activities

Young boys who have now 'settled down' and married with children. Young girls who are now mothers with children. The state doesn't care when a 'crime' was committed or what situation that person is now in, the law 'must be upheld'.

The situation of touting now begins to resemble the nazi denounciation when a person was fingered and fitted up because of his political beliefs.

And don't be ignoring the recent wave of arrests, due to police paid touts, just because it involves no-one you know or no-one from your political group. When it comes down to it Belfast is a very small place.

No one is safe.

Irish Sea -Most Radio-active in the World

The British Government plans to dump over 4,000 tons of radioactive waste in the North Atlantic this summer have faced a set-back. The biggest obstacle for the Atomic Energy Authority is the dock workers decision at Sharpness to refuse to load the ship which is due to set sale in mid-July.

The waste that is to be dumped is the most radioactive that is allowed to be disposed of into the environment. The main constituents are the various forms of filters in nuclear power plants. These filters remove most of the radioactive substances from the water and gases being released into the environment. It is typical of the nuclear industry that these filters, which are there to prevent radioactive polution, are then thrown into the sea. The waste also includes matter from the nuclear weapons programme, the Royal Navy's nuclear powered submarines and from Amersham International (which produces radioactive chemicals for industry and research)

The waste is planned to be loaded on the Nuclear Industries Radioactive Waste Executive ship the 'Atlantic Fisher' on July 4th. The ship which has a removeable bottom, can carry out its sea dumping unobserved, and more importantly prevent Greenpeace using the tactic of positioning themselves beneath the dumping platforms that have been used previously.

Greenpeace, who are organising opposition at sea if the 'Atlantic Fisher' ever sets sail, paid a visit to Dublin in mid-June on their ship, 'Cedarlea'. During their two day stay, they publicised the activities being carried out at Windscale on the Cumbria coast. That plant is described in the Political Ecology Research Group report as "the single most polluting of ALL nuclear establishments ments".

It is reckoned in the same report to be between 100-1000 times as polluting as the only other commercial repocessing plant in the world, at Cap Le Hague in France. As a result of Winscale's activities, the Irish Sea is now the most radioactive sea in the world. To date over 1/4 tonne of plutonium has been discharged, one millionth of a gram of which is sufficient to produce cancer if taken into the lungs.

According to the latest issue of "Resistance", Siddick in west Cumbria has been chosen to site an industrial park for hazardous chemical factories. This site would take industries which other EEC countries would find unacceptable The logic runs ... if the locals and the Irish don't object to Windscale and its discharges, they'll hardly mind a toxic park and its inevitable discharges into the sea.

"Resistance" also points out that, only recently has the effects of a fire in 1957 at Windscale been revealed. It caused 13 thyroid cancer deaths and seven other cancer deaths. Ireland was spared such consequences by the wind direction at the time.
Who's for a fish supper then?

"You should have seen the hatred in their faces.."

A housing protest march, with a difference, took place over a month ago. Not surprisingly it received little coverage in the 'yellow' press. We take our information from 'Resource' which is published by the Upper Springfield Resource Centre.

Eleven housing groups from West Belfast have joined forces to confront the Housing Executive over committments they have reneged on.

At the end of May 200 people, mainly women, marched from the Falls Road to the Housing Centre behind the City Hall. They had planned to hand in a letter outlining their demands, and stage a street protest.

But the RUC, ever alert to the threat of 'terrorism', sprang into action. They cordoned off both ends of the march in Adelaide St., and prevented any photographers or TV crews from getting through.

One of the protesters described what happened next,

'You should have seen the hatred in their faces. As soon as the protest started, they formed up in a line with Sterlings held by the barrells and butts, then came at us, pushing the guns against our throats. Then someone pushed back, and they went crazy, lashing out like animals.

One pulled a revolver on us, and another was roaring for a plastic bullet gun. They kicked us and punched us and threw us on the ground. Four of them had one women up against the wall, one banging her head off the wall, and the other three kicking her . . .'

The same kind of brutality was experienced during the hunger-strike campaign. It is clear that the 'hatred in their faces' was sectarian hatred. When people come out of anti-unionist areas to protest about prisons or houses, the RUC don't discriminate over issues; only against croppies! The problem is , the croppies refuse to lie down.

Changing Experiences

On 18th and 19th June a conference aiming to discuss the changing experience of women took place at the Crescent Art Centre. The conference was very well organised with workshops on many and varied topics from women in media, to women and abortion, to women and the national question.

There were also videos, films, a coffee bar, bookstalls, plus glorious sunshine which, though not provided by the organisers, certainly helped give the conference a holiday, festival atmosphere. The creche for all ages of children worked a treat.

The Charabanc Theatre came along on the Sunday and performed some scenes from their very successful play, 'Lay up your ends'. And, of course, everyone enjoyed the social on Saturday night.

The conference provided a forum for women to meet and talk about what they were doing. The workshop on Women and Community action was particularly interesting as one woman was describing her own experiences of living in the Moyard area, and fighting to improve the conditions there. Personally I felt that some womens attitudes have not changed much over the past ten years. The middle class bias is still there and in the Women and the National Question workshop there was still the same old debate – womens issues versus the National question – going on, as if the two are mutually exclusive and as if the entire anti-imperialist movement consisted of Sinn Fein.

Both the womens services (such as the Rape Crisis Centre and Womens Aid) and the work of women in the anti-imperialist movement are very important and we should be trying to attract more women into the womens movement instead of debating which of the problems affecting womens lives should be given priority.

The conference was very successful in that so many women of different backgrounds and age groups attended. Each workshop was a subject for a conference in itself. Hopefully this conference is only the first one of many.

A CRUISE IN THE MED

WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.

Have you heard of COMISO? It's in Sicily, and you've heard of that. In most people's minds, Sicily is the birthplace of the mafia. Until now Comiso has not experienced much mafia activity. It is too poor for much exploitation and corruption.

However, that might soon change, if NATO can help it, and local people can't. For Magliocco airport near Comiso is to become the site for the first and largest Cruise nuclear missile base in Europe. As you can guess, the mafia will be only a part of the local peoples problems.

The area will be subjected to an occupation force of 20,000 American soldiers spread throughout the island, because of the necessity to have several firing points for the Cruise missiles. The soldiers families are expected to bring this number up to 100,000 people.

The mafia itself will move in, because of these numbers and the ensuing money supply, with their drug, prostitution and protection rackets. It is no coincidence that the mafia also own the building firms who have the contracts for building the base.

Jean Weir, who has lived in Sicily for many years, recently visited Belfast where she spoke at a meeting on the Comiso opposition to Cruise missiles, which will culminate in a mass occupation of the site on the weekend of July 22nd.

The resistance takes two forms. There has been a small but consistent womens peace camp, akin to the one at Greenham Common in England. Periodically a mass blockade is organised where women from all over Europe attend.

But unlike Greenham there is also a strong local movement against the proposed base. As well as mass domonstrations and petitions, mainly organised by the Communist Party, a recent development has been the formation of self-managed leagues. These have their roots in the local land leagues which earlier this century were the basis for occupying large farms and resisting evictions.

Anarchist groups reactivated these organisational forms, by touring the island and holding meetings in the village and town squares. The response was heartening and there are now thousands involved in the leagues. One of their strongest bases is amongst school students. Marches on town squares, mass leafleting and school strikes against arrests have shown the effectiveness of the leagues.

However the period of counter-information and talk has lead to demands for more concrete action. How can the missile site be stopped? It became clear that there was enough support for a mass occupation of the site.

Unlike Greenham or Bishopscourt, there is only a 6 foot fence with no barbed wire. In fact some local farmers have broken down parts of the fence to grow vegetables, as the site has some of the best soil in the area!

When Jean was asked about the inevitability of confrontation, she explained how they hoped to deal with it. The structure of the leagues, which are autonomous form each other and which coordinate rather than are dictated to means there will be several tactics employed, so a confrontation at one spot will create for others an opportunity. Also if the army is used, the conscripts will be unlikely to use much violence against a large crowd of local people who will bring tractors, sheep, etc.

For the weekend they expect a lot of young people to come down from northern Italy, where there exists strong support. Punk groups are preparing a two week long festival building up to the occupation.

Jean appealed for support, either to come along, or to stage a protest in your own area, or send some much needed money via Just Books. But some one pointed out that we had enough to do here. Her reply was that there is a similarity. We already face a foreign occupation, and Sicily is threatened with one. And to quote from a leaflet, *'The outcome of the struggle in Comiso will affect the whole of Europe and the world, because of NATO's plan to mine Europe with deadly atomic missiles. It is also a method of militarising whole areas and controlling their populations. It is vital that Comiso does not remain isolated'.*

BUGGED

We asked someone from the Belfast Unwaged Group to explain how they've come on since their recent formation.

We have printed 5000 copies of a newspaper 'Bug Bites Back'. We spent a week at a time giving it out at four different brews - Shaftsbury, Corporation Street, Shankhill and the Falls Rd. The response we got from the public was very good and they seemed curious to find out what it was all about. Through the paper we have now got several new members. We also went down to the City Hall on Election day to give out the newspaper, and we had banners saying, 'Unemployed - lose again'. Although there were plenty of press people there we didn't get much of a coverage. We got a small article in the Newsletter and the Andytown News. Btu this doesn't put us off.

A week ago some of us gave out information, advertising the group, on pieces of paper which bore a remarkable resemblance to a £10 note. On one side we detailed the groups meetings, and on the other suggested that the value of this peice of paper was about as valuable as the weekly dole rate.

Although we are still a small group we do not intend to die down and will keep on fighting and we hope in time more people will realise that we are the majority and we will win in the end.

If any person is interested to find out more about the group we hold weekly meetings in 7, Winetavern St. every Monday night at 7.30pm. Also if anybody has any information, gossip or just something to say about the way the system is run, please send it along to the same address as where the meeting is held. The next edition of the paper will be in August. We will still be around until then doing as much as we can to embarass people who are running our lives.

UNMANAGABLE REVOLUTIONARIES

REVIEW.

**'Unmanageable Revolutionaries'
Margaret Ward, Pluto Press, £5.95**

I was really pleased to see Margaret Ward's first book on the shelves of the bookshop at long last and it has not failed to reach my expectations. I can remember when the subject was first mentioned in the discussions of the Belfast Women's Collective and how amazed and humbled I was that women should have made such fantastic achievments and how angry to think that men and male historians should have suppressed the knowledge of that achievement.

The book begins with a chapter on the Ladies Land League which was formed in 1881 after the virtual collapse of the Land League with many of its leading men in jail. The Ladies Land League was the finest political organisation of Irish women and proved itself to be the more revolutionary in it's goals and more organised in how to achieve those goals than it's male run counterpart The sisters of Charles Stewart Parnell, Anna and Fanny, and his mother, Delia, in America were heavily committed to the Land League revolution as were the many women whose names haves been forgotten. Women organisers toured the country and within two years there we were over 500 branches of the Ladies Land League.

I had not really considered what an achievement this was until touring Ireland on holiday one summer I tried to grasp how a group of women with not just the wrath of landlord power and the power of the British state, as ugly and repressive a state as we face today against them, but also the traditional views within society on women and their place within the home, could secure over 500 branches in two years (over 6 branches a month) as well as organising relief, attending eviction scenes and arranging for the building of huts for those who did suffer eviction, and all without the aid of the internal combustion engine!

It was a remarkable feat and by January the first 1882 an observer was to remark that " 5000 ladies of Ireland were calling on the government to arrest them and were preaching Land League doctines as they were never preached before" The women were eventually to be sold out by Irishmen, particularly Parnell, for the more dubious merits of parliamentarianism and a denial of ordinary poeple's aspirations for a scrap of Home Rule legislation: an objective which was to dominate Irish politics for the next 20 years.

DAUGHTERS OF ERIN

It was not until 1900 that women again had their own organisation. Inghinidhe na hEireann (Daughters of Erin) was set up by Maud Gonne because women were discriminated against joining any existing nationalist organisations. In her own work, Maud Gonne knew that the talents and energies of many women remained untapped. A few months before the formation of Inghinidhe na hEireann, women had organised a counter treat to Queen Victoria's free treat to 5000 children in Phoenix Park during her visit to Ireland. Nearly 30,000 children of Dublin walked through the streets refusing 'to be bribed into parading before the Queen of England' Very few adults were allowed to attend and these acted a marshalls. Forty years later Maud Gonne was still meeting women and men who came to her and said 'I was one of the patriotic children at your party when Queen Victoria was over'.

Much of the success of Inghinidhe na hEireann came about as a result of the amazing personality and charisma of Maud Gonne MacBride. At a time when women lacked the confidence to address large crowds or to have any public presence, her resolve was an inspiration to all women and most particularly nationalist women for the nationalist movement had little standing within Irish society at that time.

Inghinidhe na hEireann knew the reality of women's oppression, but they did, however, see the priority as the winning of Irish independence. They were to merge with Cumann na mBan in 1914, so by losing their autonomy as women.

CUMANN NA mBAN

Cumann na mBan were in the begining, women chiefly responsible for collecting funds, learning first aid and generally helping the men to defend Ireland. Although in later years they were to move away from this position, they were always to remain subordinate to the men and were not consulted as to policy. Their fiercest opponent was also their political ally - the Irish Women's Franchise League. The IWFL believed that the formation of Cumann na mBan had put back the cause of women's emancipation. The years of fighting were to turn Cumann na mBan into a different organisation and reading th through the chapters, much of what i felt was summed up by Constance Markievicz when she said of the women 'Their courage, their capacity and above all their discretion, were praised to me. These girls did daring and brave things that nobody ever heard of from anyone .... when the history of Ireland is to be written the name of Cumann na mBan will be a name that will go down to your children and your children's children, and as an organisation will stand as a memorial to the Irish people as a great organisation of the past'.

But with the knowledge of hindsight, the politics of Cumann na mBan were to help in setting back the struggle of women. After the Rising and Civil War, members of Cumann na mBan were more confident and mature in purpose when joining in the political debates of the day. However, the lack of a clearly defined programme of action and the IRA's mounting disregard for social issues after the 1930's was to leave Cumann na mBan without a direction.

Their ideological and emotional identification was always with nationalism - an orthodox Republicanism in which the struggles of women were to remain secondary to the partition of Ireland. Few united actions by nationalists and feminists were ever undertaken and if they were, they were instigated by the latter.

The social campaigns in the rest of Europe — the birth control movement, the struggle for abortion, for family law reform and womens rights had no impact on this stance. When de Valera put forward the 1937 constitution, probably the most reactionary in Europe, Cumann na mBan remained completely silent. Neither did any individual within Cumann na mBan lend her support to the campaign against it despite the fact that it was a betrayal of the 1916 Proclamation.

The women in Cumann na mBan never doubted that a Republican 32 county government would not treat the sexes equally and yet as late as 1971, the Republican movement was to make no mention of the interests of women or women and children in their Eire Nua document. As for Cumann na mBan , they were to decline as an organisation and eventually be disbanded. Younger women could see no point joining an organisation that had historical but no contempory relevance. They had failed to offer any way forward and ended as they had begun — an organisation ated to helping the men in fighting for a United Ireland.

Margaret Ward has achieved what must be considered as a major contribution to the womens movement in Ireland by writing this book. Would that a book on the new womens movement of the 70s and 80s will not be necessary but it we are to suffer the historical oblivion and suppression of our sisters in the past, hope that another woman historian will be there in the future to write such a sensitive , compelling and popular account of the struggle for women for liberation that will also be an inspiration to our daughters and granddaughters as this book is for us.

WATCH OUT!

CRASS RECORDS have recently released the 4 track ep 'BAD NEWS' by local band HIT PARADE. The four tracks are *Here's what you'll find in any prison, More Faces (than the Albert Clock) H Block, and Bad news.* They all serve to comment on those quaint little colloquialisms with which we are all familiar, but don't get to hear so much about on Downtown Radio or Top of the Pops. For example; political censorship, Repression, state duplicity, prisons etc. Cleverly interwoven with the rythmns and lyrics are the sounds of helicoptors, chants from demonstrations, Orange songs, familiar voices and other delicate tonings that create a flavour that should be familiar to us all.

In an effort to find out more, we tracked down Hit Parade's P-Check (which, we must presume is not his real name).

O.C. Why did you bring out this record?

P.C. Well, we felt that rock music was a really powerful force with which to get ideas across. Groups from Ulster (sic) *have consistently evaded the notion of recording political songs.*

We discussed the merits of Stiff Little Fingers (SLF), more aspiring towards an English outlook, never attempting to tackle any of the real issues in the North, whilst being heralded as the representatives of N.I. youth. Indeed their highly ambiguous lyrics argued for a 'normality' under which they could progress as a rock band, that the only rotten thing in the North was the fact that they hadn't anywhere to play. The Northern Ireland Office went as far as to include SLF in their glossy 'Everything's all right in the colonies, chaps' propaganda brochure 'N.Ireland – Observed', as an illustration of their belief that everything is normal and the kids live the same lives as anywhere, provided they immigrate to London —like SLF.

P.C. The more they moved away from the North, the less political they became, they began to sing about travelling back and foward from London and what it's like in the rock scene — shit like that which is only relevant to them.

O.C. And are you any different?

P.C. What the group want to do is to encourage young people to say 'look there are things here', especially the young kids who have more to say than us in terms of their experiences in N.I. They DO have a lot to say, but are frightened by groups like SLF, who exploited the situation, and don't want to do the same themselves.

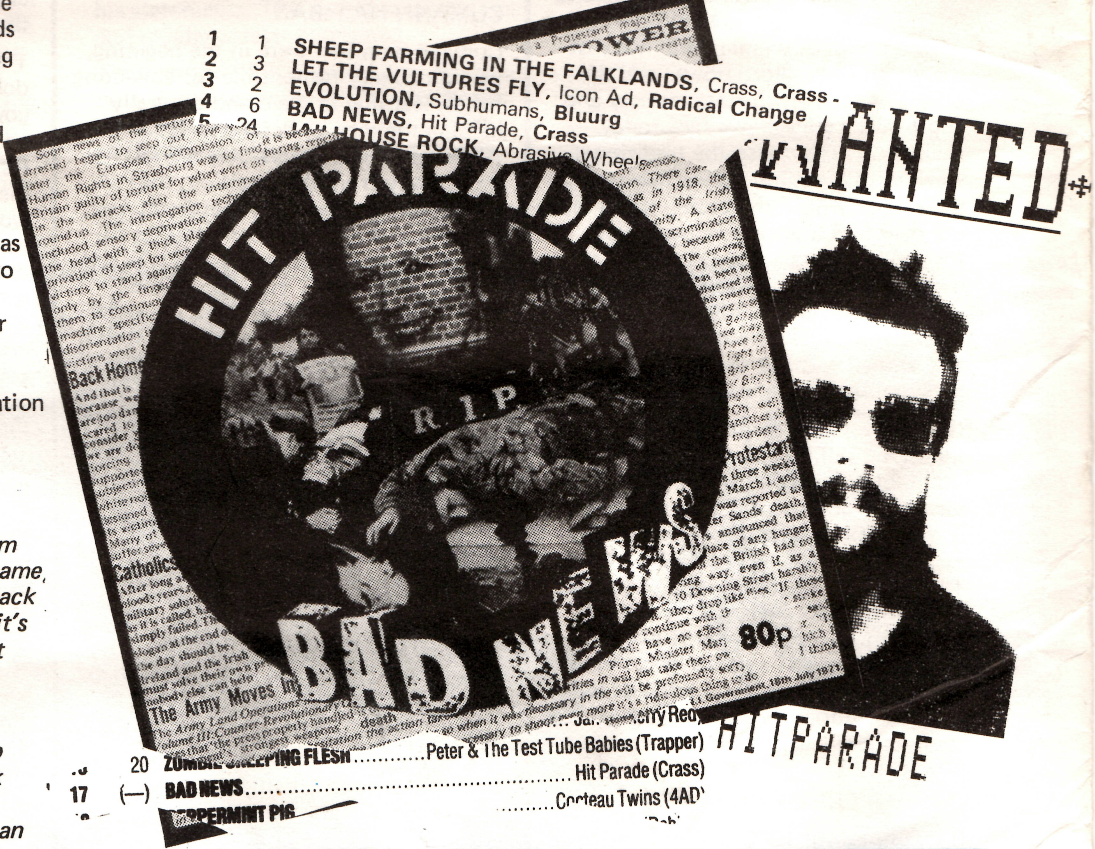
I recalled an article which had appeared in Republican News not so long ago which referred to Anarchism and Punk as imported products of an English culture. With this in mind, did P.Check feel that Hit Parade could contribute anything towards a local culture through this medium?

P.C. I think that in European countries there is basically only one culture, that is the capitalist/consumer culture and the only culture I would see as relevant would be what I would define as Resistance culture — One that demystifies or explains the situation, or which puts foward ideas within the situation and challenges it in any mode, form or content. That's the only culture I recognise. The ideas within the records are Anarchist critiques of the situation here. What they tend to be at present are definitive statements ie. On the role of the police, the media, or on prisons and hopefully there will be a few more records that have these definitive statements and I think that once these are cleared out of the way there can be more exploration of ideas and music which would get away from the old ideas of format. The H Block song wasn't conceived as a melody line, but was an attempt to generate the atmosphere within the prisons, and the uniform type military existence within these regimes. The words were actually written at the time of the first hunger strike, and it was done as a chant on some of the marches then.

O.C. A lot of people will see your record as Republican in content, and not necessarily Anarchist.

P.C. Are only Republicans supposed to take up the issue of prisons? There has always been a lot of contention within the Anarchist movement as to how they define prisons. At the time I felt that you could really see the state machinery operating on this issue, manipulation of the media, bending their own rules, they were even prepared to kill kids, and through this you could really see what way things were going to go in N.I. And I decided to support the prisoners.

The record will no doubt sell strongly on the English market, and in addition to the music, the sleeve is covered with all sorts of information (taken from 'Outta Control) onPlastic Bullets, the media, the hunger strike, prisons, and a lot of general information. However, local outlets are hard to find, with the current closure of 'Good Vibrations', the only spot in Belfast where any music other than the slick top 40 crap could be found. It is, however, available from Just Books at a cost of 80p (plus 20p for postage). All proceeds will go towards the Prisoners Book Scheme.
Let's hope it's a hit.


1 1 SHEEP FARMING IN THE FALKLANDS, Crass, Crass
2 3 LET THE VULTURES FLY, Icon Ad, Radical Change
3 2 EVOLUTION, Subhumans, Bluurg
4 6 BAD NEWS, Hit Parade, Crass
5 24 JAIL HOUSE ROCK, Abrasive Wheels
POWER
HIT PARADE
R.I.P.
BAD NEWS
80p
The Army Moves In
WANTED
HITPARADE
20 ZOMBIE CREEPING FLESH ....Peter & The Test Tube Babies (Trapper)
17 (—) BAD NEWS .... Hit Parade (Crass)
PEPPERMINT PIG .... Cocteau Twins (4AD)

HERE'S MORE BAD NEWS

Large selection of Records on the CRASS/CORPUS CHRISTI Independant label available from Just Books